REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed April 5, 2007. Claims 1-30 stand rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 19, 23, 27-30 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the abstract due to a minor informality. The abstract has been corrected to remove the informality.

Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 28-30 for minor informalities. The claims have been amended to remove the informalities.

35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner has rejected claims 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 19-22 have been amended to be directed to a statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner alleges that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the

art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The Examiner further states that the added limitation "without requiring any user interaction between receiving the request to transition control to the VM and transitioning control back to the VMM" is not seen within the specification.

Although applicants believe that the specification fully supports the above limitation of the presently claimed invention (e.g., see Specification, page 12, paragraph 0028; pages 14-15, paragraph 0035; page 16, paragraphs 0040-0041), applicants have decided to remove the above limitation to accelerate the allowance of the pending claims. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove his rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The pending claims as amended are patentable over the prior art of record. In particular, Armstrong does not teach or suggest automatic performance of single stepping of a virtual machine (VM) in response to determining that a single-stepping indicator is set to a single stepping value, as claimed in the present invention. In Armstrong, when an active breakpoint is found in a breakpoint list of the current partition, a user is notified of the breakpoint via a user interface. The user then manually requests a debug function such as single-stepping. In contrast, in the presently claimed invention, single stepping of a virtual machine (VM) is performed automatically in response to determining that a single-stepping indicator is set to a single-stepping value, i.e., no user input is required to initiate single-stepping in the presently claimed invention. Therefore, the presently claimed invention is patentable over Armstrong. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Marina Portnova at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: July 5, 2007

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